GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2457
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
India-Nepal Relations
Kamal Nath Shri ;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether a group of experts examining India-Nepal relations has recently met at New Delhi to review bilateral treaties and charted a new course for relations between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details of bilateral treaties signed between India and Nepal reviewed and also the details of new areas identified for economic and trade cooperation between both the countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) Yes. At the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission held at Kathmandu in July 2014, it was decided to establish an eight-member Eminent Persons Group (EPG) for India-Nepal relations, with each country nominating four members. The EPG was constituted in February 2016. So far, the EPG has held two meetings. The first meeting of the EPG was held in Kathmandu on 4−5 July 2016 and the second meeting of the EPG was held in New Delhi on 4−5 October 2016.

(b) The EPG is carrying out its mandated task autonomously in accordance with its Terms of Reference (ToR). The two governments are not participating in the Group's deliberations. As per its ToR, the EPG will be reviewing, inter alia, all bilateral treaties, agreements and arrangements between the two countries; recommend measures needed to be taken up by both the countries to build mutual trust and expand social, economic, cultural and political ties; recommend institutional framework(s) for a better relationship in this millennium; and make recommendations on any other areas that are necessary to promote and strengthen friendship between the two countries. The Report of the EPG would be available at the end of its proposed two year tenure (2016-2018).